

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 705

---

## AN ACT

To establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing  
and Service Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Meeting the Housing  
5       and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The senior population (persons 65 or older)  
4 in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected  
5 to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly  
6 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically in-  
7 crease to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

8 (2) By 2020, the population of “older” seniors,  
9 those over age 85, is expected to double to  
10 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by  
11 2040.

12 (3) As the senior population increases, so does  
13 the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and  
14 suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

15 (4) Due to the health care, transportation, and  
16 service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable  
17 and affordable housing opportunities differ signifi-  
18 cantly from the housing needs of other families.

19 (5) Seniors need access to a wide array of hous-  
20 ing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-  
21 home care, supportive or service-enriched housing,  
22 and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow sen-  
23 iors to age in place and to avoid premature place-  
24 ment in institutional settings.

25 (6) While there are many programs in place to  
26 assist seniors in finding and affording suitable hous-

1       ing and accessing needed services, these programs  
2       are fragmented and spread across many agencies,  
3       making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or  
4       to receive comprehensive information.

5           (7) Better coordination among Federal agencies  
6       is needed, as is better coordination at State and  
7       local levels, to ensure that seniors can access govern-  
8       ment activities, programs, services, and benefits in  
9       an effective and efficient manner.

10          (8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statis-  
11       tics on key characteristics of seniors, including con-  
12       ditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accu-  
13       rately identify the housing and service needs of sen-  
14       iors.

15   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16       In this Act:

17          (1) HOUSING.—The term “housing” means any  
18       form of residence, including rental housing, home-  
19       ownership, assisted living, group home, supportive  
20       housing arrangement, nursing facility, or any other  
21       physical location where a person can live.

22          (2) SERVICE.—The term “service” includes  
23       transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal,  
24       personal care and chore services, assistance with  
25       daily activities, mental health care, physical therapy,

1 case management, and any other services needed by  
 2 seniors to allow them to stay in their housing or find  
 3 alternative housing that meets their needs.

4 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” includes  
 5 any Federal or State program providing income sup-  
 6 port, health benefits or other benefits to seniors,  
 7 housing assistance, mortgages, mortgage or loan in-  
 8 surance or guarantees, housing counseling, sup-  
 9 portive services, assistance with daily activities, or  
 10 other assistance for seniors.

11 (4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the  
 12 Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and  
 13 Service Needs of Seniors.

14 (5) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means any in-  
 15 dividual 65 years of age or older.

16 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUS-**  
 17 **ING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the ex-  
 19 ecutive branch an independent council to be known as the  
 20 Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service  
 21 Needs of Seniors.

22 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Council are  
 23 as follows:

24 (1) To promote coordination and collaboration  
 25 among the Federal departments and agencies in-

1       volved with housing, health care, and service needs  
2       of seniors in order to better meet the needs of senior  
3       citizens.

4           (2) To identify the unique housing and service  
5       needs faced by seniors around the country and to  
6       recommend ways that the Federal Government,  
7       States, State and local governments, and others can  
8       better meet those needs, including how to ensure  
9       that seniors can find and afford housing that allows  
10      them to access health care, transportation, nursing  
11      assistance, and assistance with daily activities where  
12      they live or in their communities.

13          (3) To facilitate the aging in place of seniors,  
14      by identifying and making available information re-  
15      lated to the programs and services necessary to en-  
16      able seniors to remain in their homes as they age.

17          (4) To improve coordination among the housing  
18      and service related programs and services of Federal  
19      agencies for seniors and to make recommendations  
20      about needed changes with an emphasis on—

21            (A) maximizing the impact of existing pro-  
22            grams and services;

23            (B) reducing or eliminating areas of over-  
24            lap and duplication in the provision and accessi-  
25            bility of such programs and services; and

1 (C) making access to programs and serv-  
2 ices easier for seniors around the country.

3 (5) To increase the efficiency and effectiveness  
4 of existing housing and service related programs and  
5 services which serve seniors.

6 (6) To establish an ongoing system of coordina-  
7 tion among and within such agencies or organiza-  
8 tions so that the housing and service needs of sen-  
9 iors are met in a more efficient manner.

10 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of  
11 the following:

12 (1) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
13 opment.

14 (2) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
15 ices.

16 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee  
17 of the Secretary.

18 (4) The Secretary of Transportation or a des-  
19 ignee of the Secretary.

20 (5) The Secretary of Labor or a designee of the  
21 Secretary.

22 (6) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a des-  
23 ignee of the Secretary.

24 (7) The Secretary of the Treasury or a designee  
25 of the Secretary.

1           (8) The Commissioner of the Social Security  
2 Administration or a designee of the Commissioner.

3           (9) The Administrator of the Centers for Medi-  
4 care and Medicaid Services or a designee of the Ad-  
5 ministrator.

6           (10) The Administrator of the Administration  
7 on Aging or a designee of the Administrator.

8           (11) The head (or designee) of any other Fed-  
9 eral agency as the Council considers appropriate.

10          (12)(A) 3 additional members, as appointed by  
11 the President to serve terms not to exceed 4 years,  
12 of whom—

13                   (i) one shall be a Governor of a State;

14                   (ii) one shall be a Mayor of a political  
15 subdivision of a State;

16                   (iii) one shall be a county, town, town-  
17 ship, parish, village, hamlet, or other gen-  
18 eral purpose local official of a political sub-  
19 division of a State.

20          (B) Of the members appointed by the  
21 President under subparagraph (A)—

22                   (i) no more than 2 members may be  
23 affiliated with the same political party; and

24                   (ii) none shall be considered a Federal  
25 employee.

1 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council  
 2 shall alternate between the Secretary of Housing and  
 3 Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and  
 4 Human Services every 2 years.

5 (e) VICE CHAIR.—Every 2 years, the Council shall  
 6 elect a Vice Chair from among its members.

7 (f) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call  
 8 of its Chairperson or a majority of its members at any  
 9 time, and no less often than quarterly. The Council shall  
 10 hold meetings with stakeholders and other interested par-  
 11 ties at least twice a year, so that the opinions of such par-  
 12 ties can be taken into account and so that outside groups  
 13 can learn of the Council’s activities and plans.

14 **SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

15 (a) RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out its ob-  
 16 jectives, the Council shall—

17 (1) review all Federal programs and services  
 18 that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabili-  
 19 tating housing, including those that assist seniors in  
 20 accessing health care, transportation, supportive  
 21 services, and assistance with daily activities, where  
 22 or close to where seniors live;

23 (2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improve-  
 24 ments in existing programs and services adminis-  
 25 tered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and



1 local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their hous-  
2 ing and service needs and make any recommenda-  
3 tions about how agencies can better work to house  
4 and serve seniors; and

5 (3) recommend ways to—

6 (A) reduce duplication among programs  
7 and services by Federal agencies that assist  
8 seniors in meeting their housing and service  
9 needs;

10 (B) ensure collaboration among and within  
11 agencies in the provision and availability of pro-  
12 grams and services so that seniors are able to  
13 easily access needed programs and services;

14 (C) work with States to better provide  
15 housing and services to seniors by—

16 (i) holding individual meetings with  
17 State representatives;

18 (ii) providing ongoing technical assist-  
19 ance to States in better meeting the needs  
20 of seniors; and

21 (iii) working with States to designate  
22 State liaisons to the Council;

23 (D) identify best practices for programs  
24 and services that assist seniors in meeting their  
25 housing and service needs, including model—

- 1 (i) programs linking housing and serv-
- 2 ices;
- 3 (ii) financing products offered by gov-
- 4 ernment, quasi-government, and private
- 5 sector entities;
- 6 (iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory
- 7 practices; and
- 8 (iv) innovations in technology applica-
- 9 tions that give seniors access to informa-
- 10 tion on available services or that help in
- 11 providing services to seniors;
- 12 (E) collect and disseminate information
- 13 about seniors and the programs and services
- 14 available to them to ensure that seniors can ac-
- 15 cess comprehensive information;
- 16 (F) hold biannual meetings with stake-
- 17 holders and other interested parties (or to hold
- 18 open Council meetings) to receive input and
- 19 ideas about how to best meet the housing and
- 20 service needs of seniors;
- 21 (G) maintain an updated Web site of poli-
- 22 cies, meetings, best practices, programs, serv-
- 23 ices, and any other helpful information to keep
- 24 people informed of the Council's activities; and

1           (H) work with the Federal Interagency  
 2           Forum on Aging Statistics, the Census Bureau,  
 3           and member agencies to collect and maintain  
 4           data relating to the housing and service needs  
 5           of seniors so that all data can be accessed in  
 6           one place and to identify and address unmet  
 7           data needs.

8           (b) REPORTS.—

9           (1) BY MEMBERS.—Each year, the head of each  
 10          agency who is a member of the Council shall prepare  
 11          and transmit to the Council a report that  
 12          describes—

13               (A) each program and service administered  
 14               by the agency that serves a substantial number  
 15               of seniors and the number of seniors served by  
 16               each program or service, the resources available  
 17               in each, as well as a breakdown of where each  
 18               program and service can be accessed;

19               (B) the barriers and impediments, includ-  
 20               ing statutory or regulatory, to the access and  
 21               use of such programs and services by seniors;

22               (C) the efforts made by each agency to in-  
 23               crease opportunities for seniors to find and af-  
 24               ford housing that meet their needs, including

1           how the agency is working with other agencies  
2           to better coordinate programs and services; and

3                 (D) any new data collected by each agency  
4           relating to the housing and service needs of  
5           seniors.

6           (2) BY THE COUNCIL.—Each year, the Council  
7           shall prepare and transmit to the President, the  
8           Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
9           of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education,  
10          Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Com-  
11          mittee on Aging of the Senate, the Financial Serv-  
12          ices Committee of the House of Representatives, the  
13          Committee on Education and the Workforce of the  
14          House of Representatives, a report that—

15                 (A) summarizes the reports required in  
16          paragraph (1);

17                 (B) utilizes recent data to assess the na-  
18          ture of the problems faced by seniors in meet-  
19          ing their unique housing and service needs;

20                 (C) provides a comprehensive and detailed  
21          description of the programs and services of the  
22          Federal Government in meeting the needs and  
23          problems described in subparagraph (B);

24                 (D) describes the activities and accomplish-  
25          ments of the Council in working with Federal,

1 State, and local governments, and private orga-  
2 nizations in coordinating programs and services  
3 to meet the needs described in subparagraph  
4 (B) and the resources available to meet those  
5 needs;

6 (E) assesses the level of Federal assistance  
7 required to meet the needs described in sub-  
8 paragraph (B); and

9 (F) makes recommendations for appro-  
10 priate legislative and administrative actions to  
11 meet the needs described in subparagraph (B)  
12 and for coordinating programs and services de-  
13 signed to meet those needs.

14 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

15 (a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hear-  
16 ings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testi-  
17 mony, and receive such evidence as the Council considers  
18 advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

19 (b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—Agencies which  
20 are represented on the Council shall provide all requested  
21 information and data to the Council as requested.

22 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Council may use the  
23 United States mails in the same manner and under the  
24 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the  
25 Federal Government.

1 (d) GIFTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council may accept,  
3 use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or  
4 property.

5 (2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Council  
6 shall adopt internal regulations governing the receipt  
7 of gifts or donations of services or property similar  
8 to those described in part 2601 of title 5, Code of  
9 Federal Regulations.

10 **SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

11 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

12 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of  
13 the Council who is not an officer or employee of the  
14 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-  
15 tion.

16 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the  
17 Council who is an officer or employee of the United  
18 States shall serve without compensation in addition  
19 to the compensation received for services of the  
20 member as an officer or employee of the Federal  
21 Government.

22 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Coun-  
23 cil shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in  
24 lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of  
25 agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,

1 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-  
2 ular places of business in the performance of services for  
3 the Council.

4 (c) STAFF.—

5 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Council shall  
6 appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting.  
7 The Executive Director shall be compensated at a  
8 rate not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level  
9 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
10 title 5, United States Code.

11 (2) COMPENSATION.—With the approval of the  
12 Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix  
13 the compensation of such additional personnel as  
14 necessary to carry out the duties of the Council. The  
15 rate of compensation may be set without regard to  
16 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of  
17 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating  
18 to classification of positions and General Schedule  
19 pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not ex-  
20 ceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive  
21 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

22 (d) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—In  
23 carrying out its objectives, the Council may procure tem-  
24 porary and intermittent services of consultants and ex-  
25 perts under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code,

1 at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily  
2 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for  
3 level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
4 such title.

5 (e) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon  
6 request of the Council, any Federal Government employee  
7 may be detailed to the Council without reimbursement,  
8 and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of  
9 civil service status or privilege.

10 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of  
11 Housing Urban Development and the Secretary of Health  
12 and Human Services shall provide the Council with such  
13 administrative (including office space), supportive serv-  
14 ices, and technical supports as are necessary to ensure  
15 that the Council can carry out its functions.

16 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
18 this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
19 2010.

Passed the Senate November 17, 2005.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. 705**

---

---

**AN ACT**

To establish the Interagency Council on Meeting  
the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, and  
for other purposes.